

Metadata in CESSDA

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What is CESSDA?

- Consortium of national social science data archives
- Worked together for 30+ years
- Joint development projects
- Joint catalogues and cross-border data sharing
- Soon to become an ERIC



Data

- Mostly surveys, but growing heterogeneity
- Largescale representative national and cross-national, but also qualitative
- Longitudinal, cross-sectional, panels
- Increasingly linked data – to admin records (health, education, benefits), to biomedical (samples, genetic data, etc)

Infrastructure

- CESSDA portal – cross-searches among 10 national archives' catalogues
- ELSST – European Language Social Science Thesaurus
- Expert Seminars, professional development
- Centre of expertise on data management and data sharing

Metadata standard

- DDI (Data Documentation Initiative)
 - <http://www.ddialliance.org/>
- Expressed in XML
- DDI-C (codebook, aka DDI2)
- DDI-L (lifecycle, aka DDI3)
- Earlier versions were DTDs (2000), now XML schemas (2008)

Controlled Vocabularies

- ELSST for keywords (embedded in the portal)
- DDI CVs for elements (e.g. AnalysisUnit, SummaryStatisticType, ModeOfCollection, KindOfData etc)
 - Expressed in Genericode (XML)

Tools

- Nesstar – data and metadata browsing, online analysis and visualisation
- DDI tools – about 45 listed on <http://www.ddialliance.org/resources/tools>

Questions

- Does your community have a 'stable' metadata schema and infrastructure **Yes!**
For almost 40 years!
- Can you see as benefits of an interdisciplinary catalog and if so can you name any other discipline from which you would like to use data sets **Yes. Health sciences, environmental sciences, national statistics, administrative records, among others**
- What are important browsing dimensions & facets for catalog for community **See the CESSDA portal**
<http://www.cessda.org/accessing/catalogue/>

Thank you!

<http://www.cessda.org>

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